

## FORM B - BUILDING

**Date** (*month / year*): June 2018

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL  
COMMISSION  
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING  
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

### Photograph



### Locus Map



**Recorded by:** Lara Kritzer, JM Goldson  
community preservation + planning

**Organization:** Hanson Historical Commission

Assessor's Number      USGS Quad      Area(s)      Form  
Number

43-0-43 -0

Hanover

HNS.241

**Town/City:** Hanson

**Place:** (*neighborhood or village*):

**Address:** 1321 Main Street

**Historic Name:** George M. Crocker House

**Uses:** Present: Single-Family

Residential

Original: Single-Family Residential

**Date of Construction:** ca. 1875

**Source:** White's History, Plan 1 No. 2, Page 7

**Style/Form:** Second Empire

**Architect/Builder:** Luther O. Crocker and  
George M. Crocker

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: Brick

Wall/Trim: Wood Shingle/Wood

Roof: Asphalt Shingles

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:**

None

**Major Alterations** (*with dates*): Addition to south façade, decorative trim removed, original doors replaced, entry alterations, wood shingle siding, and vinyl replacement windows

**Condition:** Fair

**Moved:** no ☒

**yes** ☐ **Date:**

**Acreage:** .38 Acres

**Setting:** Located on one of Hanson's main thoroughfares (Route 27) adjacent to one of several small commercial centers interspersed between residential neighborhoods of largely nineteenth century home on large, densely vegetated lots which characterize the street.

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

HANSON

1321

Main Street

## MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

HNS.241

☐ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

*If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.*

*Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.*

### ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

*Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.*

The one-and-a-half story Second Empire style cottage stands out as one of the few mansard roofed houses in the area. The house has a rectangular form with a second rectangle attached to the southeast corner of the building. Both rectangles are topped by identical asphalt shingled mansard roofs. A narrow band of wood trim runs between the two slopes of the mansard roof and wide, projecting wood eaves run around the bottom edge of the roof. Shallow gable-end dormers are visible on each roof slope with narrow bands of projecting wood trim around the upper edges of the pediment that flare out to either side of the dormer. A tall, unadorned brick chimney projects out of the center of the main mansard roof and a second narrow chimney is located near the south façade of the southeast mansard. A low, shed roofed addition is also located on the south façade of the southeast mansard. The house is wood shingle sided with wood trim and vinyl one-over-one windows throughout.

The house is located on a corner lot and faces north towards Main Street. The north façade has two shallow dormers, each with a large double hung window at its center, over two more windows and a main entrance on the first floor. The entrance is in the left corner of the building and is located below a newer gable-end entrance porch. The porch has a shallow gable-end roof with a flat pediment defined by a wide band of painted, possibly composite, trim that extends down at each end in heavy squares. The center of the pediment is wood shingle sided. The porch roof is supported by two narrow, square posts resting on the cement landing and steps below. A paneled fiberglass door is located at the rear of the porch with a single three-pane sidelight over a tall, narrow panel to the left. Behind and to the left, the north façade of the southeast gable has a single dormer centered on its half-width façade. Below, a double hung window is located to the left of a second entrance with a metal awning roof. This side door has a metal storm door over it and a short set of open wood steps leading to the driveway.

The east façade of the front mansard has two dormers over a single window in the far left corner of the first floor. The southeast mansard also has two dormers and at least one window on its first floor. The long west façade faces Elm Street and has two dormers on the front mansard that are evenly spaced above two windows on the first floor. The southeast mansard has a single dormer at the center of its west façade and a smaller awning window on the wall below. The addition to the south façade of the building projects out to the west of the southeast mansard and has a side entrance located on its narrow north façade. The entrance opens onto a small patio area where a set of stone stairs with a tall wood railing along one side leads down to the driveway below. The shed roof of the addition is newer and less detailed than the mansard structure and has a wide, flat board along its eaves and a pair of smaller double hung windows on its west façade. The land drops down below this addition and a storage area protected by vertical wood board doors is located below the structure.

The house sits on a long lot at a busy intersection with dense trees and vegetation along its southern, eastern and southwestern property lines. An unpaved driveway extends from the center of Elm Street façade through the landscape to a storage and parking area at the south end of the house. A second semicircular driveway is located on Main Street to the east of the house. This long unpaved loop has a grass median with a line of large

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220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

	HNS.241
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stones and bushes at its center. Mature evergreens line the western edge of the property, which is flat to the north and east of the house and drops down significantly to the south and west. Large evergreen bushes surround the foundation on the north façade.

## HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

*Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.*

According to White's *History of Hanson*, construction on the house began under Luther H. Crocker but was later completed in 1875 by his son, George M. Crocker. Luther H. Crocker (1805-1873) was the son of Daniel Crocker and Sylvia Harden of Hanson and married Mary Osborne in Dedham in 1828. The couple lived in Dedham before moving to the Cincinnati, OH, where Luther worked as a pattern maker. By 1870, the couple had returned to Massachusetts and was living in Hanson while Luther worked as a wheelwright. The couple purchased the property at the corner of Elm Street and Main Street from Julius White in 1874,<sup>1</sup> and Luther may, as White asserts, have begun construction on the house before his death in 1873. However, when Mary and Luther's son, George M. Crocker, purchased the site from his mother in 1875, there is no mention of any buildings then on the site. George Morton Crocker (1847-1932) was born in Louisville, KY and married Alice Weston Bowman in Hanson in 1903. George was also a wheelwright and carpenter and may have been working with Luther on the construction of the house before his father's death. George moved into the house after its completion and appears as "Geo. Crocker" on the 1879 Walker Atlas. G. Crocker continued to live in the house as of the 1903 Richards Atlas, by which time the house had acquired an addition to its southeast corner and two smaller outbuildings to the east.

George appears to have sold the house in 1903 to William Copeland but bought the property back from Copeland in 1908.<sup>2</sup> In 1931, George transferred the property to his daughter, Minerva (Crocker) Ingalls (1889-1935) of Whitman as a trustee for her son, George Ray Ingalls (1914-1964), who was only fifteen at the time.<sup>3</sup> Unfortunately, Minerva died of an illness in 1935 and in 1936, the North Abington Cooperative Bank foreclosed on the property. That same year, Alfred H. Freeman (1887-1981) purchased the property from the bank.<sup>4</sup> Alfred had married Valentina Maria Aubert of Whitman in 1937. By the 1940 U.S. Census, the couple was living in the house with daughter Barbara while Alfred worked as a housebuilder/contractor/carpenter. The Freemans sold the house in 1946 to William J. (1884-1970) and Maude Brine of Rockland.<sup>5</sup> In 1963, the Brines sold the house to Walter D. and Virginia F. Alcox.<sup>6</sup> Walter had immigrated from Moncton, NB, Canada in 1909 and married Virginia in Portsmouth, NH in 1932. The couple lived in Medford where Walter was a hairdresser at Al's Barber and Beauty Shop before their move to Hanson. Whether he continued to work in the same field after moving to Hanson is not clear. In 1986, the Alcoxes sold the property to George Finigan and James Bryne, who were trustees of the 1321 Main Street Realty Trust.<sup>7</sup> In 1990, current owners George and Donna Finigan purchased the property from James and Terese Byrne.

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<sup>1</sup> Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 401, Page 180

<sup>2</sup> Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 866, Page 186; Book 980, Page 563,

<sup>3</sup> Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 1619, page 555

<sup>4</sup> Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 1707, Page 420

<sup>5</sup> Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 1899, Page 317

<sup>6</sup> Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 3022, Page 62

<sup>7</sup> Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 6928, Page 35

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

HANSON

1321

Main Street

## MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

HNS.241

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# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

HANSON

1321

Main Street

## MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

HNS.241



Ca. 1890 photo of house taken from *Images of Hanson*, Page 45.